

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 64, 67, and 83 as indicated below, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough and added material is underlined. In addition, please cancel claims 65-66, 68, 84, and 103-108 and add claims 109-128. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) A bladder comprising:

a sealed barrier defining an interior volume and formed of a polymer sheet material, the barrier having:

- a first portion that forms a first surface of the bladder, the first surface having a concave configuration,
- a second portion that forms an opposite second surface of the bladder, the second surface having a substantially planar configuration, and
- a sidewall portion that extends between the first portion and the second portion to form a sidewall of the bladder;

a tensile member located within the interior volume and bonded to the first portion and the second portion of the barrier, the tensile member being formed of a polymer foam material; and

a fluid located within the interior volume, the fluid being pressurized to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in at least a portion of the tensile member.

65-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The bladder recited in claim 66 64, wherein a surface of the tensile member that is bonded to the first portion of the barrier has a concave area.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein substantially all of the first portion and the second portion of the barrier are bonded to the tensile member.

70. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 69, wherein the sidewall portion of the barrier is substantially unbonded to the tensile member.

71. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier is spaced from the sidewall portion of the barrier.

72. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 71, wherein the surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier has a concave configuration.

73. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein surfaces of the tensile member that are adjacent the first portion and the sidewall portion of the barrier have concave configurations.

74. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member has:
a first layer that is bonded to substantially all of the first portion of the barrier;
a second layer that is bonded to substantially all of the second portion of the barrier; and
a plurality of columns that extend between the first layer and the second layer.

75. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 74, wherein the first layer of the tensile member has a concave configuration.

76. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member and the barrier are directly bonded to each other.

77. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the polymer sheet material and the polymer foam material are polyurethane materials.

78. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member has a first section and a second section, a density of the first section being greater than a density of the second section.

79. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member defines a plurality of channels extending into the polymer foam material.

80. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 79, wherein the channels extend through the tensile member.

81. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 79, wherein a first channel is substantially perpendicular to a second channel.

82. (Previously Presented) The bladder recited in claim 81, wherein the first channel and the second channel intersect.

83. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, the sole structure including a bladder comprising:

a sealed barrier defining an interior volume and formed of a polymer sheet material, the barrier having:

a first portion that forms a first surface of the bladder,

a second portion that forms an opposite second surface of the bladder, and

a sidewall portion that extends between the first portion and the second portion to form a sidewall of the bladder;

a tensile member located within the interior volume and bonded to the first portion and the second portion of the barrier, the tensile member being formed of a polymer foam material; and

a fluid located within the interior volume, the fluid being pressurized to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in at least a portion of the tensile member.

wherein the upper is secured to the first surface of the bladder, and an outsole of the sole structure is secured to the second surface of the bladder.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein at least one of the first surface and the second surface are non-planar.

86. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the first surface has a concave configuration.

87. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 86, wherein a surface of the tensile member that is bonded to the first portion of the barrier has a concave area.

88. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 86, wherein the second surface has a substantially planar configuration.

89. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein substantially all of the first portion and the second portion of the barrier are bonded to the tensile member.

90. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 89, wherein the sidewall portion of the barrier is substantially unbonded to the tensile member.

91. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier is spaced from the sidewall portion of the barrier.

92. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 91, wherein the surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier has a concave configuration.

93. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein surfaces of the tensile member that are adjacent the first portion and the sidewall portion of the barrier have concave configurations.

94. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member has:

- a first layer that is bonded to substantially all of the first portion of the barrier;
- a second layer that is bonded to substantially all of the second portion of the barrier; and
- a plurality of columns that extend between the first layer and the second layer.

95. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 94, wherein the first layer of the tensile member has a concave configuration.

96. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member and the barrier are directly bonded to each other.

97. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the polymer sheet material and the polymer foam material are polyurethane materials.

98. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member has a first section and a second section, a density of the first section being greater than a density of the second section.

99. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member defines a plurality of channels extending into the polymer foam material.

100. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 99, wherein the channels extend through the tensile member.

101. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 99, wherein a first channel is substantially perpendicular to a second channel.

102. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 101, wherein the first channel and the second channel intersect.

103-108. (Cancelled)

109. (New) A bladder comprising:

a sealed barrier defining an interior volume and formed of a polymer sheet material, the barrier having:

a first portion that forms a first surface of the bladder,

a second portion that forms an opposite second surface of the bladder, and

a sidewall portion that extends between the first portion and the second portion to form a sidewall of the bladder;

a tensile member located within the interior volume and bonded to the first portion and the second portion of the barrier, the tensile member having surfaces with concave configurations that are adjacent the first portion and the sidewall portion of the barrier, and the tensile member being formed of a polymer foam material; and

a fluid located within the interior volume, the fluid being pressurized to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in at least a portion of the tensile member.

110. (New) The bladder recited in claim 109, wherein substantially all of the first portion and the second portion of the barrier are bonded to the tensile member.

111. (New) The bladder recited in claim 110, wherein the sidewall portion of the barrier is substantially unbonded to the tensile member.

112. (New) The bladder recited in claim 109, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier is spaced from the sidewall portion of the barrier.

113. (New) The bladder recited in claim 109, wherein the tensile member has:

a first layer that is bonded to substantially all of the first portion of the barrier;
a second layer that is bonded to substantially all of the second portion of the barrier; and
a plurality of columns that extend between the first layer and the second layer.

114. (New) The bladder recited in claim 109, wherein the tensile member and the barrier are directly bonded to each other.

115. (New) The bladder recited in claim 109, wherein the polymer sheet material and the polymer foam material are polyurethane materials.

116. (New) The bladder recited in claim 109, wherein the tensile member has a first section and a second section, a density of the first section being greater than a density of the second section.

117. (New) A bladder comprising:

a sealed barrier defining an interior volume and formed of a polymer sheet material, the barrier having:

a first portion that forms a first surface of the bladder,
a second portion that forms an opposite second surface of the bladder, and
a sidewall portion that extends between the first portion and the second portion to form a sidewall of the bladder;

a tensile member located within the interior volume and bonded to the first portion and the second portion of the barrier, the tensile member being formed of a polymer foam material, and the tensile member having:

a first layer that is bonded to substantially all of the first portion of the barrier,
a second layer that is bonded to substantially all of the second portion of the barrier, and

a plurality of columns that extend between the first layer and the second layer;
and

a fluid located within the interior volume, the fluid being pressurized to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in at least a portion of the tensile member.

118. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein at least one of the first surface and the second surface are non-planar.

119. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein the sidewall portion of the barrier is substantially unbonded to the tensile member.

120. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier is spaced from the sidewall portion of the barrier.

121. (New) The bladder recited in claim 120, wherein the surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier has a concave configuration.

122. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein the first layer of the tensile member has a concave configuration.

123. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein the polymer sheet material and the polymer foam material are polyurethane materials.

124. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein the tensile member has a first section and a second section, a density of the first section being greater than a density of the second section.

125. (New) The bladder recited in claim 117, wherein the tensile member defines a plurality of channels extending into the polymer foam material.

126. (New) The bladder recited in claim 125, wherein the channels extend through the tensile member.

127. (New) The bladder recited in claim 125, wherein a first channel is substantially perpendicular to a second channel.

128. (New) The bladder recited in claim 127, wherein the first channel and the second channel intersect.